

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05  
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07  
SP-02 SS-15 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 NRC-05  
/142 W

-----079606 210431Z /45

R 201329Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4535  
INFO DOE WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY OTTAOW  
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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DOE PASS TO BERGOLD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: FR, ENRG  
SUBJECT: WORLD NATURAL URANIUM MARKET

REF: STATE 007629

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS IN ANSWER TO REFTEL  
QUESTIONS:

A. IN FRANCE, COGEMA (A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSID-  
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IARY OF CEA) PURCHASES U308 AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
DELIVERY OF ENRICHED UF6 TO ELECGRICITE DE FRANCE,  
THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC UTILITY WHICH ARRANGES FOR  
FURTHER UTILIZATION OF THE UF6, AND FUEL FABRICATION  
FOR ITS PLANTS. ENRICHMENT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED  
UNDER CONTRACT BY US, USSR, AND IN THE FUTURE BY  
EURODIF IN FRANCE. THE FUEL IS ORDERED FROM EUROFUEL

WHICH CONTROLS FBFC (FRANCO-BELGE FABRICATION COMBUSTIBLES), THE CURRENT FUEL FABRICATOR.

2. NEEDS FOR FRENCH NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 1,700 TONS OF URANIUM IN 1976, 6,000 TONS OF URANIUM IN 1980, AND 8,000 TONS IN 1985. 1975 PRODUCTION IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE WAS ABOUT 1,700 TONS OF URANIUM AND IT IS ANTICIPATED IT MAY INCREASE TO ABOUT 3,000 TONS IN 1980 AND PERHAPS 3,500 TONS IN 1985. MAIN SOURCES FROM OUTSIDE FRANCE ARE COMUF IN GABON (1976 CAPACITY ABOUT 1,000 TONS OF URANIUM PER YEAR) AND COMINAK IN NIGER (NO 1976 PRODUCTION, BUT EXPECTEX 1980 CAPACITY OF 2,000 TONS OF URANIUM PER YEAR). FRENCH OWNED PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES HAVE FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND ARE ACTIVE IN ABOUT 20 COUNTRIES INCLUDING CANADA (AMOK), U.S., INDONESIA AND CENTRAL AFRICA. IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT COMPANIES IN WHICH FRANCE HAS LARGE INTERESTS PROVIDE ONE-FIFTH OF THE WESTERN WORLD'S URANIUM PRODUCTION. WHILE FUTURE PRODUCTION OF THESE COMPANIES IS EXPECTED TO CLIMB, ONLY A PART WILL BE DESTINED FOR FRANCE.

3. COGEMA HAS THREE CONTRACTS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THE US COVERING THE PERIOD 1974 THROUGH 1978. A CONTRACT WITH DOE FOR 500,000 SWU AND TWO SPOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARKET CONTRACTS FOR 450,000 SWU WHICH WERE TAKEN OVER FROM US UTILITIES. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE A LONG RANGE CONTRACT WITH DOE FOR 230,000 SWU PER YEAR FOR THE PERIOD 1979-1988. THE FRENCH EURODIF FACILITY IS SLATED TO START IN 1979 AND REACH A CAPACITY OF ABOUT TEN MILLION SWU BY 1981. EXTENT OF DELIVERIES FROM USSR IS NOT KNOWN.

4. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT EDF HAS A LARGE ADVANCE STOCK OF NUCLEAR FUEL. THERE IS NO WORRY HOWEVER CONCERNING NEAR TERM SUPPLIES AND COGEMA MAY BE WILLING TO POSTPONE FROM 1980 AND 1981 TO 1989 AND 1990 DELIVERY FROM UOF THE 230,000 SWU PER YEAR UNDER THE LONG RANGE CONTRACT WITH DOE.

5. THE ABOVE IS BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN EMBASSY FILES AND DISCUSSIONS WITH AN OFFICIAL OF COGEMA. DETAILED AND AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN IN VIEW OF LEGAL AND OTHER CONTROVERSIES SURROUNDING IT. THE FRENCH HOPEFULLY WILL BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH SUCH DATA THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN INFCE.

HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** URANIUM, MARKETS  
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**Draft Date:** 20 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978PARIS01841  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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